



# Weekly Afghan Road Update

October 29, 2003

Issue 17

## Critical Components

**Security** -- Fortunately, serious security incidents were minimal during the reporting period. There was one assault on an Afghan engineer near Km 157. Additional security forces are being recruited to support the extra nighttime paving operations. Deployment plans have been submitted for a full time external area 'buffer' force to help improve security coverage for the construction and paving crews. Armed assistants are also being deployed in some trucks operating within the more sensitive work zones.

**Demining** -- There was a kidnapping threat related to deminers and expatriate supervisors near Sections "D" and "E". Additional security was provided to the subject demining crews and the threat passed without incident. The overall demining progress has reached an average of 86%, with clearance work completed in Section "B". The total roadway cleared out to 13.5 meters on each side now exceeds 340 kilometers.

**Supplies** -- Aggregate production continued as scheduled during the period. Bitumen received or in transit now total about two-thirds of the tonnages needed for Phase I. Given the cooling weather and logistics chain, procurement of an additional 'buffer' stock to minimize the risks of asphalt delivery shortfalls is being pursued. The bulk of materials for bridge reconstruction is on site. Pre-cast operations for bridge girders is advancing on schedule.

## Construction Progress

Paving lay-downs now total more than 60 percent of the target. Section "B" paving (49 kilometers) was completed during the reporting period. This now enables the Section "B" contractor to continue paving southward into Section "C", thereby lessening the risk of paving stoppage due to cold weather in this high altitude area. With the much accelerated operations in Section "E", total paving per day, taking all sections together, is averaging four to six kms. Providing there are no unforeseen weather or security problems, and if imported bitumen continues to arrive as scheduled, this pace should be maintained. Security details are being augmented to support the extended work schedules.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Cumulative Total
Demined (km)	9	335
Aggregate Produced for Asphaltting (mt)	27,880	1,315,307
Paving Activities (km)	20*	240
Workers Injured/Killed in Hostile Action	0/0	15/9

Note: Total length is 389 kms; 900,000 mt of aggregate is required for first layer paving.

\* Data is for the three day period October 22 through October 25. Cumulative total is as of October 25<sup>th</sup>.



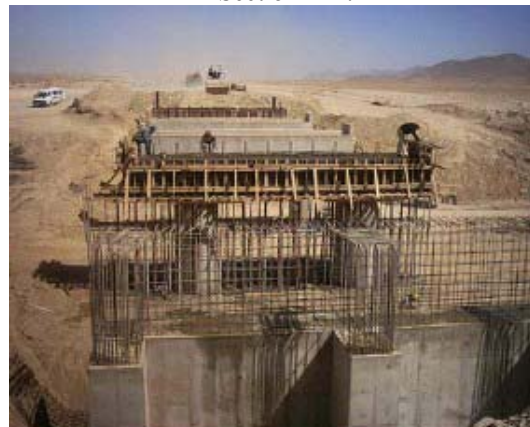
The Deputy Minister of Public Works (head of table) with project management at the event commemorating the completion of Section "B".



Compaction of second binder course at Km 90 in the town of Salar.



Stone masonry culvert construction in Section "B".



Bridge piers under construction .